

St John's CE First School

Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

Love Protect Succeed



www.st-johns-bishopswood.staffs.sch.uk
Email office@stjohnsbishopswood.org

DIARY DATES 2025-26

Mon 27th -Friday 31st October Half Term

24th November

28th November

8th December

9th December

10th December

11th December

12th December

18th December

19th December

Flu Immunisation Reception to Year 4

Bishopswood Village Christmas Lights Switch On
School to perform 6.30pm Village Hall

Christingle 2pm Church. Parents welcome.

Reception—Year 4 Panto Trip

Acorns Craft and Singing Session 1.30pm

Parents welcome

Saplings Nativity 2pm and 6pm performances

Christmas Jumper Day

Oaks Carol Concert at St John's Church 6pm
All Welcome

Christmas Party at 1.30pm—Non Uniform Day

St John's First School

Christian value

for this half term is:

'Friendship'

'Encourage one another and build each other up'

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Ahead of half term can you all check your ParentPay balances and clear any outstanding debt. School debt currently stands at over £1000.

Child of the Week

Well done to the following children, week ending 17th October 2025

Acorn	Musa
	Ethan
Saplings	Lexi
	Mia
Oaks	Reuben
	James

Well done to the following children, week ending 23rd October 2025

Acorn	Bertie
	Esme L-H
Saplings	Lily
	Harry G
Oaks	Bertie
	Freddie

Good as Gold

Well done to the following children, week ending 17th October 2025

Acorns	Willow
Saplings	Callie
Oaks	Ronnie

Well done to the following children, week ending 23rd October 2025

Acorns	Effie
Saplings	Tabitha
Oaks	Sophia D

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 17th October 25

Squirrels	100%
Acorns	91%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	93%
WS Year to date	96.55%
	Target 96%

Attendance

Well done to the following classes for the week ending 24th October 25

Squirrels	88%
Acorns	85%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	93%
WS Year to date	94.96%
	Target 96%



If your child is absent from school you need to contact us each day by 9am. If you do not contact us we will be contacting the Education Welfare Officer who will make a home visit.

We have a duty of care to ensure your child is safe.

As per NHS guidance if your child has a sickness or stomach bug they must remain off school, until they have been 48 hours clear.

If your child uses an inhaler please supply school with one, in a box with a named prescription label on the box.

We can only issue children under six years old, with prescribed Medication. Children over six can be given medicines such as Piriton or Calpol, but it must be provided by the parent.

All medication must be handed in at the office, where you will be required to fill in a consent form.

A polite reminder that school and school grounds are no smoking or vaping and also, dogs should not be brought into the grounds. Please ensure this is passed on to anyone who drops off or collects your children.





This year we will be taking part in the dance festival as normal, at Wolgarston high school. Miss Challiner will be running the club on a Wednesday after school for Reception to year 4.

This will be from 3.15-4.15 on the following dates:
19th and 26th November, 3rd and 10th December, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th Jan.

The performances will be confirmed closer to the time but are planned for Tuesday 3rd February.

To sign up for the club please make a payments on parentpay which will be up shortly. The cost will be £40.

Please start sending weather appropriate clothes into school now the weather is getting colder and wetter.

Children should have a coat for play time and hats and gloves as needed.

As per the email that has gone out, children who wish to play on the grass need to have a change of shoes in school. Wellies are not appropriate as children tend to fall over whilst running in them.

Please can I remind you we are a nut free school. We have a member of our school community with a severe nut allergy that requires use of an epi pen. Please be mindful of this whilst sending in snacks and packed lunches.



The admissions process for applying for a Reception 2026 place opens on 1st November. Please remember you have to apply via the council even if your child already has a nursery place with us.

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Diwali

We had an amazing time learning about, and celebrating Diwali. An absolute huge thank you to Mrs Gidda who worked hard planning it all for us. We dressed up, we danced, we ate and we had fun whilst learning.



Christmas Trip

This year we will be taking the children from Reception to Year 4 to the pantomime as a Christmas trip. We are lucky enough that the PTA have kindly agreed to fund the cost of the coaches for us, in order to keep the cost down for the actual trip. So a huge thanks to the PTA for this.

The cost of the trip will be £16.00 payable via parent pay. Please can you ensure your contribution is paid by 30th November.

Those who are in receipt of Pupil Premium do not have to pay this cost.

The trip will take place on Tuesday 9th December, with the performance beginning at 10.30am.

This will mean we will leave school promptly, if we can ask you not to be late on that day. All children should come in full school uniform and can bring a drink (not fizzy or in a can) and a snack which is fully disposable (no tupperware)

Due to a late arrival back for lunch we will be doing sandwich grab bags, if your child requires a packed lunch please preorder via parentpay or by contacting the office by email to book stating your choice of sandwich. Ham, Cheese, Tuna or Egg. Alternatively you can bring a packed lunch.



Nursery will be doing other festive activities in their own age appropriate groups.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER, TAGS,
MUGS AND BAGS PRINTED WITH
YOUR OWN ARTWORK!



See your
masterpieces
printed and
celebrated on
gifts for your
family

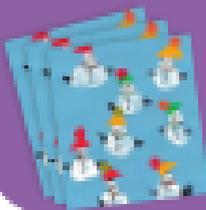


TOTE BAG



HAVE YOU
COMPLETED
YOURS YET?

CARDS

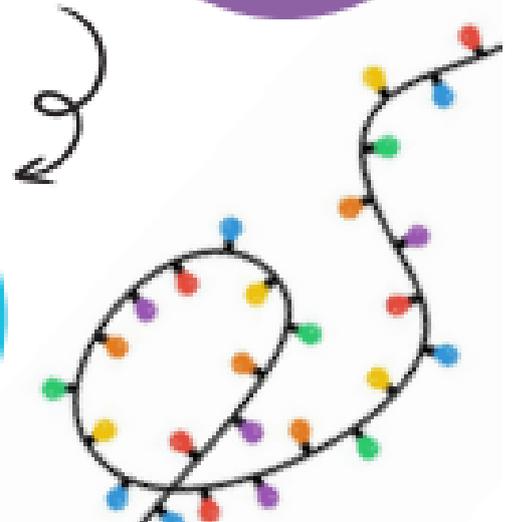


MUG



PERSONALISED
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS FOR ALL
THE FAMILY

Art
projects
for schools



The Art Projects for Schools Christmas Card online shop closes on
4th November.

To order any Christmas Cards, wrapping paper, mugs and other festive items
please use the QR code to visit the shop using the art work your child bought
home.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Minecraft Child Safety Settings

Minecraft itself doesn't have a big built-in "parental control" menu but depending on how your child plays (Java Edition, Bedrock/Windows, or console), you can manage what they can do through a mix of Microsoft account family settings, platform parental controls, and server/world settings.

Bedrock Edition (Windows, iOS, Android, Xbox, PlayStation, Switch)

- **Microsoft Family Safety**
 - Log into your child's Microsoft account via family.microsoft.com.
 - You can set:
 - Screen time limits.
 - Spending limits (requires adult approval for purchases).
 - Restrictions on joining multiplayer/Realms.
 - Restrictions on adding friends.
- **Xbox/Console Parental Controls**
 - Each console (Xbox, PlayStation, Switch) has its own parental settings that allow you to:
 - Restrict online play.
 - Control voice/text chat.
 - Block joining servers or Realms.
 - Limit age-rated content.

Java Edition (PC/Mac)

Java doesn't have built-in parental settings, so you'll need to manage through:

- **Server settings:** If your child plays on your own hosted server, you can whitelist who's allowed to join, disable chat, or use plugins/mods to filter messages.
- **Launcher account:** Java Edition is tied to a Microsoft account now, so you can still apply Microsoft Family Safety rules (e.g. screen time, purchase approval).
- **Chat reporting:** Mojang added reporting and chat filters—strong language and personal info can be filtered automatically if enabled in account settings.

General Safety Options

- **Mute Chat / Toggle Chat** (both editions): You can turn chat off in settings to stop interaction with strangers.
- **Realms vs Servers:** Realms are invite-only (safer). Public servers often have less control over content and players.
- **Resource Packs / Add-ons:** Keep an eye on downloads; use only trusted sources (Marketplace or well-known modding sites).
- **Play Together Locally:** On consoles or LAN, kids can play with just friends/family without internet strangers.

ROBLOX Child Safety Settings

To set up parental controls on Roblox and ensure your child has a safe and age-appropriate experience, follow these steps:

Step 1: Link Your Parent Account

1. Log into your child's Roblox account (Has to be a child's D.O.B).
2. Navigate to **Settings** (gear icon).
3. Select **Parental Controls**.
4. Click **Add Parent Account**.
5. Follow the prompts to create or link your parent account.

Step 2: Set Up Parental Controls

Once your parent account is linked, you can manage various settings:

1. Communication Settings

- Go to **Parental Controls > Communication**.
- Adjust who can chat with your child in experiences and via direct messages. Options include:
 - **Everyone**
 - **Friends**
 - **No one**
- For users under 13, default settings are more restrictive.

2. Content Restrictions

- Navigate to **Parental Controls > Content Restrictions**.
- Set the **Content Maturity** level appropriate for your child:
 - **Minimal**
 - **Mild**
 - **Moderate**
 - **Restricted**
- You can also block specific experiences by adding them to the **Blocked Experiences** list.

3. Friends Management

- In **Parental Controls**, scroll to **Friends** and select **Manage**.
- View your child's friends list, and block or report users as necessary.

4. Spending Controls

- Under **Parental Controls**, go to **Spending Restrictions**.
- Set a monthly spending limit for Robux and subscriptions.
- Choose to receive notifications for every transaction or only for high spending thresholds.

5. Screen Time Management

- Access **Parental Controls > Screen Time**.
- Set daily time limits for your child's Roblox usage.
- View the top 20 experiences your child has played in the past week.